

Serial No. 10/083,656 filed 2/25/2002
Amendment dated February 13, 2006
Response to Office Action of August 5, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Once Amended) An apparatus, ~~for preventing spilling during drinking, said apparatus comprising:~~
a no-spill drinking apparatus, said apparatus comprising a valve, said valve comprising a protruding member post and a flexible material, said flexible material comprising an opening, said valve having a closed position and in an open position,
said closed position being a configuration in which said protruding member extends through said opening to block the passage of liquid liquid is blocked from passage through said opening,
said open position being a configuration in which said protruding member and said opening are further separated than in said closed position to allow the passage of liquid liquid can pass through said opening,
wherein said valve moves from said closed position to said open position upon application of negative pressure to said flexible material, and wherein said flexible material begins to invert upon said application of negative pressure to said flexible material.
2. (Once Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said protruding member post is at least partially tapered; ~~said opening is located within a flexible valve member, and said valve member begins to invert upon the application of negative pressure to said valve member, to rise off of said tapered protruding member.~~
3. (Once Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said apparatus comprises a cap for a cup, said cap comprising a soft spout.
4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said apparatus comprises a drinking hard cup.

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5. (Once Amended) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said apparatus comprises a valve assembly an anti-inversion member.

Claims 6-27 (canceled)

28. (New) A apparatus, comprising:

(a) a no-spill drinking apparatus, said apparatus comprising a cap and a cup, said cap being attachable to said cup and detachable from said cup, said cap comprising a spout;

(b) a valve, said valve comprising a flexible material having an opening, said valve further comprising a post, said post extending into said opening, said valve having a closed position and an open position, wherein liquid is blocked from passing through said opening and through said spout when said valve is in said closed position;

(c) a valve holder which holds said flexible material, said valve holder being attachable to said cap and separable from said cap;

(d) an air vent; and,

(e) a valve subunit;

(f) wherein said apparatus is configured such that application of negative pressure through said spout causes said flexible material to move, with said opening of said flexible material moving along said post toward said spout, such that liquid passes through said opening and out of said spout, and air passes into said apparatus through said vent; and,

(g) wherein upon said application of said negative pressure, said flexible material hits said valve subunit.

29. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said flexible material begins to invert upon said application of negative pressure.

30. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said flexible material inverts upon said application of negative pressure.

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31. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said opening is a hole.
32. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said air vent comprises an opening and wherein said opening of said air vent is smaller than said opening of said flexible material of said valve.
33. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said air vent is closed before drinking, and opens during drinking.
34. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said air vent opens for passage of air through said air vent upon said application of negative pressure.
35. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said air vent comprises an opening, said opening of said air vent being an opening in a flexible material.
36. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein air vent comprises an opening, said opening of said air vent being an opening in a flexible material, said opening of said air vent being in a separate flexible material from said flexible material through which passes liquid.
37. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein liquid passes through said valve holder when the person drinks from said spout.
38. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said valve holder and said cap are dimensioned such that said valve holder fits snugly into said cap.
39. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said post has a greater diameter at its bottom than at its top.
40. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said post extends tightly through said opening.
41. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein cups of different sizes are configured for interchangeable attachment to said cap.
42. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said cap is provided with screw threads, such that said cap can be screwed onto and off of the cup.
43. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said cup is a hard cup.
44. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said cap is further provided with finger grips on the outside of said cap to facilitate screwing of said cap on and off of said cup.

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45. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said application of negative pressure causes a flexible material to move to open said air vent.
46. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said flexible material comprises the shape of a bowl.
47. (New) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said flexible material comprises the shape of a bowl, said bowl having a rim and a bottom, said bottom moving both toward said rim and toward said spout upon said application of negative pressure.
48. (New) An apparatus, comprising:
- (a) a no-spill drinking apparatus, said apparatus comprising a cap and a cup, said cap being attachable to said cup and detachable from said cup, said cap comprising a spout;
 - (b) a valve, said valve comprising a flexible material having an opening, said valve further comprising a post, said post extending into said opening, said valve having a closed position and an open position, wherein liquid is blocked from passing through said opening and through said spout when said valve is in said closed position;
 - (c) a valve holder which holds said flexible material, said valve holder being attachable to said cap and separable from said cap;
 - (d) an air vent, said air vent comprising an opening; and,
 - (e) a valve subunit;
 - (f) wherein said apparatus is configured such that application of negative pressure through said spout causes said flexible material to move, with said opening of said flexible material moving along said post toward said spout, such that liquid passes through said opening and out of said spout, and air passes into said apparatus through said vent;
 - (g) wherein said air vent is closed when said valve is in said closed position, and said air vent opens upon said application of negative pressure through said spout;
 - (h) said valve subunit being at a sufficiently close distance to said flexible material such that upon said application of negative pressure said flexible material will hit said valve subunit.

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49. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said flexible material begins to invert upon said application of negative pressure.
50. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said flexible material inverts upon said application of negative pressure.
51. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said opening is a hole.
52. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said air vent comprises an opening and wherein said opening of said air vent is smaller than said opening of said flexible material of said valve.
53. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said air vent comprises an opening, and wherein said opening of said air vent is an opening in a flexible material.
54. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said opening of said air vent is an opening in a flexible material, said opening of said air vent being in a separate flexible material from said flexible material through which passes liquid.
55. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein liquid passes through said valve holder when the person drinks from said spout.
56. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said valve holder and said cap are dimensioned such that said valve holder fits snugly into said cap.
57. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said post has a greater diameter at its bottom than at its top.
58. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said post extends tightly through said opening.
59. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein cups of different sizes are configured for interchangeable attachment to said cap.
60. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said cap is provided with screw threads, such that said cap can be screwed onto and off of the cup.
61. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said cup is a hard cup.
62. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said cap is further provided with finger

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grips on the outside of said cap to facilitate screwing of said cap on and off of said cup.

63. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said application of negative pressure causes a flexible material to move to open said air vent.
64. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said flexible material comprises the shape of a bowl.
65. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said flexible material comprises the shape of a bowl, said bowl having a rim and a bottom, said bottom moving both toward said rim and toward said spout upon said application of negative pressure.